

drastic purgatives are seldom admissible, but when the digestive organs are disordered, an emeto-cathartic of ipecac. and calomel is recommended, with blue mass and ipecac., three parts to one, to act upon the liver. Mild laxatives and enemata are also useful. Of narcotics "opium, camphor, morphia, stramonium, conium, belladonna and aconite are most to be relied upon. These are often improved by combination with other remedies. For instance, opium, ipecac. and soap, equal parts, forms a pill much easier given than Dover's powder. Camphor mixture, with half a grain of tart. antimony, and five drops of laudanum to the ounce, given in half-ounce doses, is a powerful sedative and adjuvant in allaying nervous excitement. Morphia with colchicum, where there is a gouty or rheumatic diathesis, endangering metastasis, is a valuable auxiliary in treatment. Stramonium acts specifically on the sensorium, stimulating the absorbents. A saturated tincture of the seeds in camphor mixture is the best mode of administering it. Conium is best combined with the different preparations of iron. Belladonna and aconite are often improved by combination."

Counter-irritants are valuable, and warm bathing is highly recommended. "The patient should be immersed from twenty to thirty minutes, the heat at 96° Fahrenheit, refrigerating the head while in the bath, when the heat of the part should indicate the necessity. Warm bathing will be found particularly beneficial and appropriate in melancholia and delirium tremens. Fixed alkaline salts added to the water, are useful in removing the sebaceous oil from the surface of the body. The nitro-muriatic bath is a valuable and effective agent in a congestive state of the liver, and should be repeated in connection with the usual remedies, until we have evidence of a healthy secretion of bile. The value of the shower-bath is known to all, yet it is too indiscriminately used. Should atony prevent a suitable reaction and warmth over the surface, it may do serious and lasting injury."

"In the second stage of insanity a more tonic treatment becomes necessary. The various preparations of iron, mineral acids and quinine, nitrate of silver, followed by a solution of iodine to prevent a discoloration of the skin conjoined with suitable moral treatment, will often decide the future prospects and destiny of the patient."

P. E.

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ART. XXI.—*Report of the Surgeon General U. S. Army*, pp. 10. 8vo, Washington, 1843.

From this interesting document, we learn that "the number of cases of indisposition which have been under treatment in the army, during the last twelve months, was 27,734; 26,820 of which occurred within the past year; 914 being cases that remained of the preceding year.

"Of the whole number of sick, 26,513 have been restored to duty, 309 have been discharged the service, 18 have deserted, and 160 have died; leaving, on the 30th September, 726 still on the sick report.

"The mean strength of the army for the last twelve months has been about 9,963; and as the number of sick, during the same period, was 27,734, and the aggregate of deaths was 160, it will appear that the proportion of cases of indisposition to the number of men in service, was as  $2\frac{11}{100}$  to 1, or 281 per cent.; the ratio of deaths to the number of men, as 1 to 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ , or a fraction less than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; and the proportion of deaths to the number of cases treated, as 1 to 173 $\frac{7}{100}$ , or  $\frac{57}{100}$  per cent."

That the high-standard of qualification for admission into the medical department of the army is maintained, is sufficiently attested by the fact, that of twenty-four applicants invited to attend before the medical board for examination, fourteen only ventured to appear, of whom three afterwards withdrew, one was objected to on account of physical disqualification, and of ten actually examined, four only were approved.

The army medical officers, at the various posts, are zealously engaged in

making meteorological observations, which will form most important contributions to that science.

The Surgeon General zealously, and we conceive very properly, urges the propriety of proper buildings being erected outside the walls of our forts for the accommodation of the sick of the garrison, instead of assigning the casements of the fort for that purpose, "where, in addition to the want of privacy, and deficiency of ventilation and light, the sick are constantly annoyed by the tramping of the other men, and the clangour of their arms within the area of the fort, and frequently shocked by the thunder of their cannon, and the rattling of the battlements over their heads."

"The objection to having barracks, hospitals, &c., erected outside the walls of our forts is, as I understand," remarks the Surgeon General, "that they destroy the military appearance of the place, and, by masking the rear battery, interfere with the fire from the guns on the line of defence.

"This may be a valid objection with the scientific engineer, whose laudable pride it must be to display the fortress which he has erected in all its strength and grandeur of appearance. I, however, whose province it is to suggest measures conservative of health in the army, and whose duty it is, too, to advocate the cause of the sick and invalided soldier, cannot be brought to subscribe to the wisdom of a policy, which would withhold from the officers and men who are to occupy these forts the ordinary comforts, and abridge them of the accommodations essential to their health, under the supposition that some time or other (perhaps in the hundredth year) the work may be attacked, and the use of all the guns required, unincumbered with a hospital or other buildings outside of the fortification. Barracks, hospitals, &c., distinct from the walls of the fort, (and which can be built at as little expense, I apprehend, as fitting up casemates for quarters,) will give accommodation and comfort to the garrison for forty or fifty years; and should, eventually, one or two of our many works of defence be besieged or stormed by an enemy, why, the buildings that mask the guns, or cover the assailants, may be readily burnt down, or battered down by our own cannon."

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ART. XXII.—*Human Physiology, with upwards of three hundred illustrations*. By ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D., etc. etc. Fifth edition, greatly modified and improved. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 648—656. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1844.

THE fact, that five large editions of this work should have been demanded within a period of considerably less than twelve years; taking into account, also, the several other very excellent and valuable treatises upon the same subject, some too by authors of distinguished reputation, which have appeared during the same period, argues well for the manner in which Dr. Dunglison has accomplished his task, while it indicates the increasing attention that is paid by the medical profession in this country, to the study of physiology.

We have already, upon more than one occasion, expressed our favourable opinion of the treatise of Dr. Dunglison; and we feel it a pleasure as well as a duty now to say, that however excellent was the work on its first appearance, its completeness and value have been since then very materially improved. Taking advantage of the opportunities afforded to him by the frequent editions that have been called for, the author, with commendable industry, has taken care to add to each, all the more recent improvements and discoveries made in reference to either of the subjects legitimately embraced in the science of which he treats, up to the period of its publication:—so that the present edition may, with great confidence, be received as a full and fair exposition of the actual condition of human physiology; in reference, as well to such facts and deductions as may be considered completely established, as to the more important doctrines advocated by the leading physiologists of the day, upon questions of a somewhat doubtful or obscure character.